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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/986,689 | 11/09/2001 | Takeshi Ikuta | SN-US000588 | 5787 |

22919 7590 01/14/2003

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EXAMINER

LANGDON, EVAN H

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3654

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/986,689

Applicant(s)

IKUTA, TAKESHI

Examiner

Evan H Langdon

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 13, 19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The description "dual-bearing reel RL is installed onto the reel seat RS as shown in Figure 2." These items are not found in Figure 2.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 19 and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities: claims are dependent from claim 13. Suggested correction: depend from 16. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 2nd Paragraph

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 16 recites the limitation "the fishing rod" in 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "said harness connecting means" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 19 also recites the limitation "said rod mount" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yeh in view of Noda.

Yeh shows a dual-bearing reel 50 with a reel body 51, a rod mount 56 coupled to a fishing rod and attached to the reel body, a spool 52 rotatively carried in the reel body, and a handle 54 that cranks the spool as seen in Figure 5. The rod mount is at the top of the reel, so that the reel is mounted below the rod in use, as seen in Figure 4.

Yeh fails to show a harness connector that removably and reattachably engages a harness where the harness connector is provided on a side of the reel body on which the rod mount is mounted.

Noda teaches a harness connector 40, 41 that removably and reattachably engages a harness where the harness connector is provided on a top side of the reel body on which the rod mount is mounted as seen in Figures 2 and 3.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the dual-bearing reel of Yeh to include a harness connector on the top side of the reel body, as suggested by Noda, to allow the weight of the rod to be supported by the angler's shoulders, neck and waist.

Art Unit: 3654

In regards to claims 2 and 3, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a harness connector that includes a pair of clips 40, 41 (Noda) furnished on each side of the reel body in a direction of rotational axis of the spool and installed with a coupling member 42 as seen in Figures 2 and 3 (Noda).

In regards to claims 4, 5 and 7, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a rod mount 56 (Yeh) that is removably and reattachably coupled to the reel body, has a mounting pod for coupling to a fishing rod where the mounting pod is a plate-shaped component with a surface curved to fit the surface of the fishing rod as seen in Figure 5 (Yeh).

In regards to claim 6, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a rod mount attachable to the upper side of the reel body where the reel is disposed below the fishing rod when the rod is connected to a fishing rod as seen in Figures 4 and 5 (Yeh).

In regards to claim 8, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a reel body with first and second side plates 11, 12 (Noda) disposed at a spacing direction of the rotational axis of the spool, and top and bottom connectors 30 and 15 connecting the two plates.

In regards to claims 9-11, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a rod mount 26 (Yeh) including a leg portion joining the mounting pod and the reel body where the mounting pod is formed unitarily with the leg portion and the leg portion includes a pair of pillar shaped members that extend vertically from the reel body as seen in Figure 1 (Yeh).

In regards to claims 14 and 15, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches harness clips each furnished on both sides of the rod mount as seen in Figure 3 (Noda), and where the reel further comprises a drag lever 30 for adjusting the drag force of the spool as seen in Figure 1 (Yeh).

Art Unit: 3654

In regards to claim 16, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a dual-bearing reel onto which a harness is attachable comprising a reel body 51 (Yeh), a mounting means 56 attached to the reel body for coupling to a fishing rod, a harness connection means 40, 41 (Noda) for removably and reattachably engaging a harness where the harness connecting means are provided on a side of the reel body on which the rod mounting means is coupled, a spool 52 (Yeh) and a handle 54.

In regards to claims 17 and 18, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a rod mounting means attachable to the upper side of the reel body where the reel is disposed below the fishing rod when the rod is connected to a fishing rod, and where the reel body has rod mount coupling means for coupling the rod mounting means to the reel body removably and reattachably as seen in Figures 4 and 5 (Yeh).

In regards to claims 19 and 20, Yeh as modified by Noda teaches a harness connecting means including clips 40, 41 furnished on both sides of the rod mount as seen in Figure 3 (Noda) and a drag lever means 30 (Yeh).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 3654

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evan H Langdon whose telephone number is (703)-306-5768. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (703)-308-2688. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-308-0552 for regular communications and (703)-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

ehl
January 10, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Matecki". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600**